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PLYMOUTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DR. T. PEIRSON.

1959.

General

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

Where the entry "NO CHANGE" appears, this indicates that there has been no alteration in the information given in the Report for 1958.

The tonnage of vessels which entered the port during the year was 2,296,972, as compared with 2,724,937 in 1958.

SECTION 1 - STAFF.

TABLE A.

Name of Officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
T. Peirson	Port Medical Officer.	5.12.32.	M.D., M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
G. B. CARTER	Deputy Port Medical Officer.	5.7.48.	M.D., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
H. B. Boucher	Part-time Port Medical Officer.	1.5.50	M.B., F.R.C.S. D.T.M. & H.	Assistant Medical Officer of Health, City of Plymouth.
A. S. Kitt	Port Health & Food Inspector.	3.2.47.	Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. Meat & Other Foods Certificate.	

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY PORT MEDICAL OFFICER,

DR. G. B. GARTER.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	717	1,507,752	110	567	13
Coastwise	1089	789,220	-	648	-
Total	1806	2,296,972	110	1215	13

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C.

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers INWARDS - 12,815

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - 693

The total number of passengers remaining on board passenger-carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (exclusive of those shown above) was 29,184.

Cargo Traffic. Principal IMPORTS

Foreign :-

Fertilisers from Antwerp and Hamburg.
Phosphates from Sfax, Bona, Antwerp and Rouen.
Potash from Hamburg, Antwerp, Bremen and Wismar.
Basic slag from Rouen and Dunkirk.
Onions from Rotterdam and Amsterdam.
Fresh fruit from Holland and France.
Preserved meat from Holland.
Timber from Vancouver, Antwerp, Gothenburg, Kotka and Kemi.
Grain from Vancouver, Antwerp, Rouen and Rotterdam.
Fuel oil from Curacao and Trinidad.
Agricultural machinery from Holland.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE 3.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by the Medical Officer of Health	Number inspected by the Public Health Inspector	Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
Foreign Ports	717	1,807,788	110	887	13
Coastwise	1089	789,829	-	648	-
Total	1806	2,596,972	110	1515	13

SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE 6.

Number of passengers INWARDS - 18,815

Passenger Traffic

Number of passengers OUTWARDS - 895

The total number of passengers remaining on board passenger-carrying vessels entering the Port of Plymouth (equivalent of those shown above) was 20,164.

Cargo Traffic. Principal IMPORTS

Foreign :-
Fertilisers from Antwerp and Hamburg.
Phosphates from Safi, Sfax, Antwerp and Rouen.
Potash from Hamburg, Antwerp, Bremen and Wismar.
Basic slag from Rouen and Marseilles.
Onions from Rotterdam and Amsterdam.
Fresh fruit from Holland and France.
Preserved meat from Holland.
Timber from Vancouver, Antwerp, Gothenburg, Kotka and Kral.
Grain from Vancouver, Antwerp, Rouen and Rotterdam.
Fuel oil from Curacao and Trinidad.
Agricultural machinery from Holland.

Coastal :-

Basic slag from Grimsby.
Coal from South Wales and North-East ports.
Vaporising oil, gas oil, petrol, kerosene and paraffin from Fawley, Hamble and Swansea.
Fertilisers and phosphates from Middlesbrough, London and Immingham.
Cement and asphalt from London.
Grain from Avonmouth, Newport (I.o.W) and Cardiff.
Potatoes from Belfast and Londonderry.
Fish from deep sea fishing grounds.
Margarine, cooking fats, tinned fruit, flour, biscuits, tinned vegetables and sugar from Liverpool.

Principal EXPORTS :

China clay and granite chippings.

Principal Ports from which ships arrive :

Asia and Australasia.	Europe.	America.	Africa.
Hong Kong	Amsterdam	Buenos Aires	Beira.
Rangoon	Antwerp	Curacao	Cape Town
Brisbane	Bremen	Kingston Ja.	Casablanca
Abadan	Brest	New York.	Sfax
Bombay	Calais	Philadelphia	
	Delfzyl	Valparaiso	
	Gibraltar		
	Gothenburg		
	Kotka		
	Le Havre		
	Rotterdam		
	Rouen		

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY.

NO CHANGE.

Bale clay from Grimsby.
Coal from South Wales and North-East ports.
Vaporising oil, gas oil, petrol, kerosene and paraffin from Pawley, Rangle and Swansea.
Fertilizers and phosphates from Middlesbrough, London and Immingham.
Cement and asphalt from London.
Grain from Avonmouth, Newport (I.o.W) and Cardiff.
Potatoes from Belfast and Londonderry.
Fish from deep sea fishing grounds.
Margarine, cooking fats, tinned fruit, flour, biscuits, tinned vegetables and sugar from Liverpool.

Principal Exports :

China clay and granite chippings.

Principal ports from which ships arrive :

Asia and Australasia.	Europe.	America.	Africa.
Hong Kong	Amsterdam	Buenos Aires	Durban.
Rangoon	Antwerp	Curacao	Cape Town
Penang	Bremen	Kingston Je.	Casablanca
Sydney	Brest	New York.	Oran
	Calais	Philadelphia	
	Dublin	Valparaiso	
	Dunkirk		
	Gothenburg		
	Kotka		
	Le Havre		
	Rotterdam		
	Rouen		

SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC.

There is no inland barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V - RAIL SERVICE.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

(1) Isolation Hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone: Liskeard 2385) staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth (Telephone: Plymouth 64311 and 61437). Physician-Superintendent: Dr. F. Johnstone.

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for convalescent orthopaedic cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

(2) Arrangements for the transport of cases to hospital.

The launch "ARGUS" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority, based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone Plymouth 62821, Ext. 245 by day, and Plymouth 61441 at night and week-ends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore.

Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone: Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

(3) Smallpox Consultants.

Plymouth and Cornwall:	Dr. D. F. Johnstone, Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Telephone: Plymouth 64311, 61437 and 73896.
Devon and Cornwall:	Dr. W. A. Lister, 10, The Crescent, Plymouth. Telephone: Plymouth 61875 and 51040.
Devon and Cornwall:	Dr. C. Seward, 20, West Southernhay, Exeter. Telephone: Exeter 2110 and Exmouth 4120.

(4) Facilities for the Laboratory Diagnosis of Smallpox.

Material for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Office, Plymouth.

Specimens would be forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London, N.W. 9.

SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1932.

NO CHANGE.

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SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Location of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, and days and hours of attendance.

NO CHANGE.

During the year 61 British and 20 Foreign seamen (Total 81 compared with 58 in 1958) were treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows :-

British.....	61
Dutch.....	9
Norwegian.....	1
Finnish.....	1
Polish.....	1
Italian.....	1
Indian.....	4
Portugese.....	1
Canadian.....	2

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year Passengers.	Crew.	Number of ships concerned.
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Chickenpox	-	3	1
	Malaria	-	1	1
	Influenza	-	1	1
	Pneumonia	2	-	2
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Chickenpox	4	-	4
	Mumps	3	-	2
	Measles	1	-	1
	Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cases landed from other ships.	-	-	-	-

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE.

Location of facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease, and days and hours of attendance.

NO CHANGE.

During the year 61 British and 30 Foreign seamen (Total 91 compared with 98 in 1938) were treated at the Venereal Disease Clinic.

The Nationalities were as follows :-

British.....	61
Dutch.....	9
Norwegian.....	1
Finnish.....	1
Polish.....	1
Italian.....	1
Indian.....	4
Portugese.....	1
Canadian.....	2

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

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Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year Passengers.	Crew.	Number of ships concerned.
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Chickenpox	-	3	1
	Malaria	-	1	1
	Influenza	-	1	1
	Pneumonia	2	-	2
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Chickenpox	4	-	4
	Mumps	3	-	3
	Measles	1	-	1
	Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Cases landed from other ships.	-	-	-	-

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS.

One case of malaria was landed from a British vessel during the year.

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

(1) All ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector and Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Foremen Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

(2) All rats caught are destroyed, and specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon & West Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

(3) Deratting of ships is carried out by fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas. These fumigations are carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

The names of Commercial Contractors who have carried out the fumigation of vessels at this Port are :-

1. Fumigation Services Ltd., Barking, Essex.
2. London Fumigation Co., London, E.C. 3.

Small infestations are dealt with by the Local Authority's Rodent Operator, using "warfarin".

It is pleasing to note that rat-proofing principles have been adopted in the construction of new vessels.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

NIL.

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses.

Category.	Number.
Black rats	-
Brown rats	18
Sent for examination.. ..	-
Infected with Plague.. ..	-

Number of rats presumed killed, based on amount of poison bait taken : 260.

Number of mice destroyed by poisoning - 278.

TABLE F.

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Number of Deratting certificates issued				Total	Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After fumigation with		After trapping	After poisoning			
HCN.	Other fumigant (state method)					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7
-	-	-	-	-	27	27

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949. (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951.

No Rodent Control Certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.

The majority of vessels entering the port, carried a Deratting Exemption Certificate.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of Inspections.	Notices served		Result of serving Notices.
	Statutory Notices.	Other Notices.	Complied with.
1218 vessels.	-	4	3

SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 & 1948.

NO CHANGE.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) - NO CHANGE.

Paragraphs (4) - During the year, the number of incoming aliens was 5,392. The number of outgoing aliens was 308.

Paragraph (5) - NO CHANGE.

Reports and certificates for aliens medically examined.

	Nature of Report or Certificate.	Total number of reports and Certificates issued.	Aliens NOT PERMITTED to land.
A	Unsound mind or mentally defective	-	-
B (1)	Undesirable for medical reasons	-	-
B (2)	(a) Inability to support	-	-
	(b) Likely to require medical treatment	1	-
	(c) Inability to support and likely to require medical treatment	1	-
C	Conditionally landed for further medical examination	-	-
	Totals	2	-

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

NO CHANGE.

	[illegible]	-	-
	[illegible]	[illegible]	-
	[illegible]	[illegible]	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	-	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	-	-
[illegible]	[illegible]	-	-
	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Food Inspection.

During the year 299 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 & 1948.

There were 217 from foreign ports, and 82 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of :-

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Yellow corn	1	10	0	0
Pork Luncheon Meat		1	1	8
Ox tongues				16
Minced beef loaf..				3
Tinned pears..			2	0
Tinned plums..		1.	2	6¼
Tinned damsons				19
Tinned apples				6½
Tinned greengages				12¾
Tinned peas			1.	4½
Tinned beans..				13
Biscuits			2	22
Total	1.	14.	3.	27

No action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 & 1958.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth, for examination:-

Nature of Specimen.	From.	Examined for.	Result.
Oysters. (3 samples).	Yealm Oyster Fisheries.	B. Coli.	(1) E.Coli isolated from these oysters. (2) E.Coli was not isolated from these oysters. (3) Faecal type E.C Coli not isolated.
Sea water. (2 samples).	Yealm Oyster Fisheries.	B. Coli.	(1) Number of coliform bacilli 1600 per 100 ml. Number of bact. coli - 350 per 100 ml. (2) Coliform bacilli 25 per 100ml. Bact.Coli - Nil per 100 ml.

Food Inspection.

During the year 229 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937 & 1948.

There were 217 from foreign ports, and 22 coastwise.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome and unfit for human consumption consisted of :-

	Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Yellow corn	1.	10	0	0
York Lunchson Meat		1	1	8
Ox tongues				12
Mixed beef loaf..				3
Tinned peas..			2	0
Tinned plums..		1.	2	8½
Tinned damsons				10
Tinned apples				8½
Tinned greengages				12½
Tinned peas			1.	4½
Tinned beans..				12
Biscuits			2	22
Total	1.	14.	3.	27

No action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1936, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1948 & 1949.

The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth, for examination:-

Nature of Specimen.	From.	Examined for.	Result.
Oysters. (3 samples).	Yealm Oyster Fishermen.	B. Coli.	(1) B.Coli isolated from these oysters. (2) B.Coli was not isolated from these oysters. (3) Faecal type B.Coli not isolated.
Sea water. (2 samples).	Yealm Oyster Fishermen.	B. Coli.	(1) Number of coliform bacilli 1000 per 100 ml. Number of bact. coli - 320 per 100 ml. (2) Coliform bacilli 28 per 100ml. Bact.Coli - Nil per 100 ml.

Infectious Diseases.

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1959.

Cases landed at the Port.

7 cases of infectious disease were landed, and 14 cases of non-infectious disease or injury, of whom 19 were admitted to hospital.

Infectious Diseases.

No major infectious disease occurred within the area of the Authority during 1929.

Cases landed at the Port.

7 cases of infectious disease were landed, and 14 cases of non-infectious disease or injury, of whom 12 were admitted to hospital.